

Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of 2002 Biennial Regulatory Review -  
Review of the Commission's Broadcast Ownership Rules  
and Other Rules Adopted Pursuant to Section 202  
of the Telecommunications Act of 1996,  
Notice of Proposed Rulemaking,  
MM Docket No. 02-277, (rel. Sept. 23, 2002)

To: The Secretary, FCC Commissioners, and Chief, Media Bureau

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, the Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules.

In promoting its alleged goals of fair competition, diversity and local voice in today's media market, I strongly believe that the FCC should Modify the current media ownership rules now in question to disallow multiple station per-band ownership outside of the top 50 Radio Markets and that cross media ownership and multiple broadcast station ownership within the top 50 Radio Markets should be severely restricted to avoid domination of public opinion and information manipulation by a few dominant companies.

The rules as they presently stand DO NOT SERVE the public interest! The present rules DO NOT place adequate limits on the market power of the huge, dominant companies and players in the broadcast industry.

The studies commissioned by the FCC do not accurately demonstrate, or even attempt to demonstrate, the negative effects that media deregulation and consolidation have had on the diversity of our media.

While there may indeed be more sources of media than ever before, the spectrum of views presented has been severely limited.

The right to conduct an informed debate and discussion of current events is part of the founding philosophy of our nation. Our forefathers believed that democracy was renewed in the marketplace of diverse ideas.

If the FCC allows our media outlets to merge and consolidate further, or remain in the present state of consolidation, our ability to have an open, informed discussion from a wide variety of viewpoints will continue to be compromised.

I urge the FCC to once again preserve the public interest by changing the existing media ownership rules to limit ownership in all Radio Markets.

Also, I support the FCC's plan to hold a public hearing on this matter in Richmond, VA in February of 2003. I strongly encourage the Commission to hold similar hearings in all parts of the country and solicit the widest possible participation from the public. The rarified, lawyerly atmosphere of an FCC rulemaking is not an appropriate decision-making venue when questions as profound as the freedom of our media are at stake. I encourage the Commissioners to come out and meet some of the people who do not have a financial interest in this issue, but a social interest.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it

is important that the Commission take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the process.

I sincerely hope you will give this issue the weight and consideration it rightfully deserves.

If you or one of your staffers wishes to have informed discussion on this matter, my 35 year knowledge of the history of this industry and the present effect of consolidation on the industry are at your disposal.

Sincerely,

Ernest A. Belanger